



**STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES**  
***Aging and Disability Services Administration***  
**20425 72nd Ave S, Suite 400 • Kent, WA 98032-2388**

October 21, 2009

Dear Provider:

This letter is to inform those of you in the following zip codes to be prepared for the impact of a possible flood disaster in the Green River Valley: 98001, 98002, 98055, 98030, 98031, 98032, 98057, 98092, and 98188. Flooding may be mild to severe between October 2009 and March 2010 due to the conditions of the Howard Hansen Dam, causing possible loss of electricity, sewer, and road closures.

Washington Administrative Code for licensure of your home requires you to have effective disaster plans ongoing. Preparedness helps prevent injuries, casualties, and loss, and is key to survival. Review and update your plans so they include:

- Sufficient staffing and adequate communication systems;
- Relocation agreements with other providers **outside** the flood plain;
- Alternate transportation routes not dependent on Route 167, Highway 18, Interstate 405, or other roads located in the Valley floor;
- Local fire department and city notification that you are a licensed home, located in the flood plain, caring for vulnerable adults;
- Connection to radio alert systems for disaster alert notifications and updates e.g. the Regional Public Information Network System (RPIN.org) so you receive alerts when to evacuate should your home flood;
- Sufficient supplies and "Go kits" equipped with medications, residents records, insurance documents, financial records, disaster plans, cash, phone numbers, and food, water, clothing, batteries, pens/paper, etc.;
- Notification to the state hotline 1-800-562-6078 if you evacuated your home due to flood and/or infrastructure loss; and
- Turning water off and unplugging electrical appliances and computers when you evacuate (do not shut off gas unless directed by emergency management).

You must be prepared to relocate up to 8 weeks if it floods and/or you lose infrastructure support because it may take as long as 8 weeks to pump water out of the Valley.

Even though your home may not flood, sewer systems may back up. Now is the time to check if you have backflows on your sewer and septic systems. Also, if you do not have flood insurance, now is the time to explore necessity.

Know in advance how your city plans to respond to flooding. Call them.  
City contact numbers are:

City of Renton	(425) 430-6400
City of Tukwila	(206) 433-1800
City of Auburn	(253) 876-1925
City of Kent	(253) 856-4440

**If your city or county tells you to evacuate, you must evacuate.**

If you need a guide to help you plan, King County Healthcare Coalition has the Business Resiliency Workbook for Healthcare Providers online at <http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/preparedness/hccoalition/~media/health/publichealth/documents/hccoalition/BusinessResiliencyWorkbookforHealthcareProfessionals.ashx>.

Additional resources:

<a href="http://www.adsa.dshs.wa.gov/professional/EmergencyPlanning/">http://www.adsa.dshs.wa.gov/professional/EmergencyPlanning/</a>	Residential Care Services website about flood and flu preparedness.
<a href="http://www.rpin.org/rpinweb/">http://www.rpin.org/rpinweb/</a>	Regional Public Information Network System
<a href="http://www.kingcounty.gov/safety/FloodPlan.aspx">http://www.kingcounty.gov/safety/FloodPlan.aspx</a>	Emergency Management - Regional Flood Preparedness
<a href="http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/preparedness/greenriverbasin.aspx">http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/preparedness/greenriverbasin.aspx</a>	Health and Medical Flood Preparedness
<a href="http://www.kingcounty.gov/health/H1N1">www.kingcounty.gov/health/H1N1</a>	
<a href="http://Floodsmart.com">Floodsmart.com</a>	Flood Insurance Information

Plan now. Involve your residents and their representatives in planning. Train your staff how to implement your disaster plans. Test your plans. Do not wait until a real disaster occurs to find out if they work.

The State of Washington recognizes the value of your service in caring for vulnerable adults and wants residents, staff, and you to be safe should there be a flood.

If you have any questions about planning and preparedness, feel free to call me at (253) 234-6006.

Sincerely,



Bett Schlemmer, RN, MN, MPA  
Regional Administrator  
DSHS/ADSA/Residential Care Services